Volume 17 No. 9 January 2007

WORKS IN PROGRESS

ESTABLISHED IN 1990 BY THE THURSTON COUNTY RAINBOW COALITION

Ralph's Thriftway lone Plan-B holdout despite losses

by Janet Blanding

The boycott of Ralph's and Bayview is working. Financial losses at the stores are putting pressure on Stormans Inc. to change their discriminatory policy against stocking Plan B emergency contraception. While the Pharmacy Board investigates complaints filed by Olympia women who were unable to fill prescriptions at four local pharmacies last summer, three out of four of those pharmacies are now stocking the morning after pill. The sole holdout: Ralph's Thriftway.

A boycott gives consumers the power to express their ethical values in practice. As changes in policy concerning emergency contraception evolve on a national and state level, our local battle serves as a reminder to the state Pharmacy Board and legislature that the rights of women and patients are strongly supported by the Olympia community.

"A boycott gives you a chance to have a public sphere discussion about what the responsibilities of government are to ensure equality and justice," said Sarah Ryan, instructor in labor studies at the Evergreen State College and longtime union activist. "As consumers, citizens in community, we can boycott as an expression of our personal ethics."

Gains in consumer access to emergency contraception have occurred since the boycott began. The FDA approved over-the-counter status of Plan B emergency contraception in August, and Barr Pharmaceuticals started shipping the medication, now packaged for distribution in pharmacies without a prescription, in mid-November. Women aged 18 and over across the country can walk into almost any pharmacy and obtain emergency contraception immediately, without the delay and expense of obtaining a physician's prescription. All major national drug store chains have announced that they are stocking Plan B.

On the state level, the Board of Pharmacy has abandoned the proposed administrative code drafted at its meeting of June 1, 2006, that would have allowed pharmacists to refuse to fill any prescription for any reason. The Board of Pharmacy is now engaged in the process of adopting two codes which women's advocates feel are much more appropriate. The new code will require that all legal, clinically appropriate prescriptions be filled at any pharmacy; if an individual pharmacist has a moral objection to filling a particular prescription, someone else must be present at the pharmacy who will dispense it, to ensure that patient care is not compromised by the personal ethics of pharmacy personnel.

> The Bayview employee also claimed the stores lost over $1.2 million in 5 months.

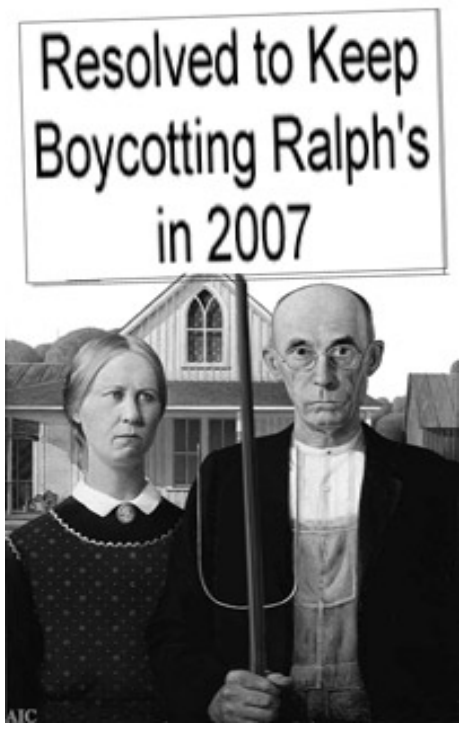
Local access to emergency contraception has improved, as well. Albertsons/Sav-On on Pacific Avenue in Lacey, where five women were unable to fill prescriptions for Plan B in June–July of 2006 because it was not stocked, now carries the medication. The same is true of the Rite-Aid on Sleater-Kinney, and the Walgreen's in Lacey; both stores had single complaints filed against them because they were out of stock, on one occasion each. Whether these improvements in stocking are due to the visibility of the Ralph's boycott or to pending complaints with the Board of Pharmacy is difficult to assess. Boycott organizers are quick to note, however, that even as the Ralph's/Bayview boycott has not yet persuaded Stormans to change its policy about the morning after pill, the media coverage has made many other business owners aware of the boycott. Stormans' admitted financial losses undoubtedly serve as a deterrent to other pharmacy owners who might otherwise consider pursuing a similar policy of denying women access to appropriate health care.

As many Olympians continue to boycott Ralph's and Bayview, other members of the community have expressed concern that the boycott may result in the demise of two locally owned grocery stores. In an era when Walmarts, other big box stores, and huge retail and restaurant chains are making it difficult for small businesses to survive, the financial viability of local stores is a matter of concern for the community.

On Dec. 5, *The Olympian* published a letter to the editor written by Jill Severn, who originally supported the boycott, but felt that its continuation was a threat to the financial stability of Ralph's and Bayview. In a phone interview, Severn reported that while shopping at Bayview, she asked a clerk why she could not find one of her favorite grocery items, Brown Cow yogurt. She was told that "We've lost so much money, we just can't keep this store stocked the same way."

The Bayview employee also claimed that because of the boycott, the stores had lost over 1.2 million dollars in just five months.

"I would like Olympia to be Olympia," said Severn, "not just a place like everywhere else. Those two local businesses are a piece of what makes Olympia Olympia." Severn feels that the issue of emergency contraception access will likely be resolved



by the Pharmacy Board, and possibly the legislature, and boycotters should return to shopping at Ralph's.

Although the Board of Pharmacy is proceeding with the complaints filed in late July, it is a slow process. According to Lisa Salmi, acting executive director of the Washington State Board of Pharmacy, the investigation phase of the complaint process can take up to 170 days, with an extension, if needed. Six cases are still being investigated, while seven cases have been assigned to individual members of the Board of Pharmacy for review, before being presented to a panel of board members; this phase of the complaint process can take up to 140 days. Although the Pharmacy Board is delving into the issue of restricted

▸ **Plan B** continued on page 9

Fort Lewis punishes soldier for exposing sexual assault

by Wally Cuddeford

On Wednesday, Dec. 15, sexual assault survivor Suzanne Swift appeared before a hastily assembled court-martial. She was charged with going Absent Without Leave from her unit at Fort Lewis, on the eve of their deployment to Iraq. Swift's court-martial wasn't going to happen until January, but it was hastened when she agreed to make a deal with the military. The terms of Suzanne Swift's deal are as follows:

> Swift will spend up to 30 days in the brig.
>
> She has agreed to stay in the military until January of 2009.
>
> She has been reduced in rank from Specialist to Private.

The military also asked that she sign a statement disavowing the sexual assault she endured during her time in the service, but she refused to sign it.

Suzanne Swift's agreement was signed under the implicit threat of lengthy prison time (also known as "under duress"). Swift has stated she wishes never to return to Iraq, yet because of this deal, she may be ordered to deploy once again. Sending Swift back to Iraq would be putting her back in the same dangerous environment where she first received PTSD, both from the war and from her abuse at the hands of her superiors. This would make her susceptible to further sexual assault, as well as other forms of retaliation from hostile soldiers who see her as "the snitch who went and talked."

Once the deal was signed, Suzanne's court-martial was thrown together within a week. Because of the deal, there were no arguments or evidence. There was no "I went AWOL because my reports of sexual assault went ignored." There was no examination of the case. She simply showed up and was sentenced to 30 days in the brig.

In the Civil War era, there was a common practice known as the "drumhead court-martial." These were convened during wartime, near the field of battle, to address improprieties within the ranks. Such as when a superior officer decided there wasn't the time or resources available to conduct a proper trial, and that immediate action must be taken.

Drumheads were judicial exhibitions, performed in a meager effort to give lip-service to justice, all while ignoring every conceivable tenet of justice. A superior officer was given full authority to level whatever ruling he wanted, and order whatever punishment, which often included lashings and hangings. They were so hastily convened, it was common practice to simply gather the parties around a drum, using the head of that drum as the judicial bench. There were no lawyers, there was often no presented evidence, and ruling officers were not at all held accountable for their rulings. The only goal was to bring a speedy resolution to perceived misconduct within the ranks. It is safe to assume many innocent people were sentenced to immediate death without the chance to defend themselves.

Enlisting to serve in the Armed Forces does not mean you waive your right to due process and justice. Not in peacetime and not in wartime. Not back then and not today. Although these Civil War era kangaroo courts are travesties of justice by today's standards, Suzanne Swift's court-martial amounted to nothing more than a 21st Century drumhead court-martial.

But none of these proceedings addressed the real crime in all of this. Suzanne Swift was sexually assaulted and harassed by two of her superior officers while serving in Iraq, and continued to be harassed by other superiors upon her return. The military has chosen to prosecute the AWOL charge, while ignoring a soldier's repeated accusations of sexual assault on the part of her direct superiors.

During her first tour of duty in Iraq, Swift was forced against her will into sexual relationships by two different superior officers, both of whom are married. Swift made it clear to both of them that their advances were unwanted, but it did her no good. Upon raping her, the superior officer sensed that Swift may report the incident. He warned her, "Nobody will believe you."

Even upon her return to the U.S., the harassment continued. One incident happened when Swift asked her superior officer where to report in the morning, to which he replied, "In my bed, naked." Swift reported these incidents to the proper officials, but no investigation was launched.

When Swift was ordered to deploy to Iraq again, she suffered a breakdown at her home in Eugene, Oregon. She told her mother, "I just can't go back." Swift remained in Eugene for six months, until one night when local police broke into her home to take her back to Fort Lewis.

There are folks who ask for piles of evidence before they believe claims of sexual assault, saying "We can never know what really happened, and can't do anything about it until we do." Such a stance does nothing to combat sexual assault, and does everything to dissuade victims from speaking out. By coming forward, sexual assault survivors bring upon themselves ridicule and further harassment by people who would rather keep rape acts hidden, while the perpetrators of the assault often walk away unpunished. It is for this reason that accusations of rape should always be taken seriously as soon as they are voiced.

Suzanne Swift is fortunate that she has a solid case, implicating both the superiors who assaulted her, and the military that refused to take her seriously.

No commander should ever become involved with people under their command. It is not consensual if a jailor enters a sexual relationship with his prisoner. It is not consensual if a police officer has a sexual encounter with a detainee. And it is not consensual if a military commander gets

▸ **Swift** continued on page 8

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Works In Progress is a free, volunteer-operated progressive community newspaper based in Olympia, Washington. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of *Works In Progress* and are solely those of the authors.

Submissions
Please send text as Word attachments. Artwork and photos can be sent electronically or we can scan them for you as camera-ready/black & white.

WIP reserves the right to publish in whole or part all submissions. For editing purposes, please enclose your phone number.

Articles may be reprinted. Please cite source.

If you don't see your issue being covered in Works In Progress, *it's because you aren't writing about it! (Or aren't finding someone else to cover it!)*

Send submissions to *wip@zhonka.net* or mail to Works In Progress, PO Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507-0295.

Governing Tool
The following statement is part of the Editorial Policy and is the governing tool for the Anti-Discrimination Clause:

WIP *will make every effort to work with the contributor of material considered by* WIP *to be offensive in order to reach a mutually agreed upon resolution, but* WIP *reserves the right as a last resort to edit or not print submitted material.*

Mission Statement
"Our aim is to confront injustice and encourage a participatory democracy based on economic, social, and environmental justice. *Works In Progress* is dedicated to providing a voice for those most affected by the exclusionary and unfair practices that seek to silence the oppressed."

Anti-Discrimination Clause
We will collectively endeavor to be sensitive and respectful to all those oppressed in this society, and their issues. However, if and when we should make a mistake in this regard, we expect to acknowledge it and to express regret for injury or insult given.

Back Issues
Get your catalog of indexed *WIP*'s below. Some back issues are available in the Timberland Library system. *WIP* is being archived on microfilm by the UW Library.

WORKERS IN PROGRESS

Chris Allert	Sandy Mayes
Dave Campbell	Phan Nguyen
Renee Cruickshank	hali panneton
Wally Cuddeford	Melissa Roberts
Christian DesMarets	Sandia Slaby
Brendan Funtek	Sylvia Smith
Drew Hendricks	Jeff Sowers
Teresa Jennings	Pat Tassoni
David Lavender	Scott Yoos

On the cover: Olympia activist Jeff Berryhill, Olympia City Councilmember TJ Johnson, and activist Molly Gibbs (2nd row from left) marched with Rev. Elizabeth Stevens, her son Daniel (front right), and over 200 others on a 3.7-mile trek to the Indian Island Naval Weapons Depot, September 23, 2006. Photo by Jane Ramirez.
See story on page 7.

WIP Schedule

Submission Deadline: Jan. 26

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Works In Progress still needs more help
If you would like to join the all-volunteer WIP worker collective, there will be at least one more public recruitment meeting where you can meet with collective members and figure out how you can plug in. Join us on Sunday, January 14, 4:30–6 pm at Fertile Ground Guesthouse, 311 9th Ave SE, Olympia (in the "studio," the small building behind the main house).

Suzanne Swift Support Rally
Wed., Jan. 3, 11:30 am
Bangor Naval Base, Ground Zero, 16159 Clear Creek Rd, Poulsbo

Welcome Spc. Swift's release from the brig and call for an immediate medical discharge with full benefits. Organized by South Sound Project for Military Resistance and Justice. Please contact us at suzanneswiftaction@yahoo.com or call (360)485-5745. **Carpools**: **Lacey**—10 am at Martin Way Park and Ride, one block from the movie theater. **Olympia**—10:30 am at Harrison & Division at the Grocery Outlet parking lot.

(See related article on front page.)

Public support rally for Lt. Watada
Thurs., Jan. 4, 9:00 am at the I-5 overpass off of Exit 119 (just outside Ft. Lewis), at dawn and dusk.

US Army Lt. Ehren Watada is the first commissioned officer to publicly refuse deployment to Iraq. His pre-trial hearing is set for Jan. 4. Lt. Watada takes the position that the war in Iraq is illegal, and that the conduct of the war and occupation is directed illegally, from above. Join us as we stand with Lt. Watada against this illegal and immoral war. For more info: Carrie Hathorn, (206) 963-4873, or **www.thankyoult.org**.

(See related articles on page 6.)

Hacking Democracy
Free film screening and Q&A with Bev Harris of Black Box Voting
Fri., Jan. 5, 7:00 pm, Olympia Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 2200 East End St NW on Olympia's westside

Filmed in 2004-2005, this documentary tells the story of Bev Harris, a Seattle publicist/writer whose watchdog group uncovered evidence of mishandled voting records and suspicious voting machine malfunctions. Harris's crusade took the group—consisting of computer experts, activists and political candidates from both parties—from her home computer (where she found a computer system blueprint accidentally made public) to Tallahassee, FL, for a "mini-election" that proved just how easy it is to hack the vote. 81 min. More info: Howard Rosenfeld, (360) 790-4020.

Olympia clean elections forum
Sat., Jan. 6, 3–5 pm, Olympia Center, 222 Columbia St. NW, rm. 101–102, Reception: 3-3:30, Presentations/Forum: 3:30-5:00

Learn about the benefits of public campaign financing and how it works in the states of Maine and Arizona —where clean elections are flourishing! Sponsored **by Washington Public Campaigns** (WPC), a nonprofit organization advocating public funding of campaigns. Featured Speakers are **Linda Valentino**, Maine State Representative, and **Ed Abseler**, Arizona State Representative. Maine adopted clean elections campaign financing for statewide and legislative offices in 1996 and Arizona followed in 1998.

Suggested donation is $5 but no one will be turned away. Endorsed by League of Women Voters of WA, Green Party of WA, WA State Democrats, and more. Those who wish to continue the discussion after the event are invited to join local WPC members at Plenty's Restaurant from 5–6 pm.

Tacoma clean elections forum
Sat., Jan. 6, 11 am, Tacoma Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 1115 S. 56th St, in Tacoma

This event features the same speakers listed above: Arizona State Senator Ed Ableser, and Maine State Representative Linda Valentino plus WA State Senator Jim Kastama and WA State Representative Mark Miloscia. A light lunch will be served afterward. More info: Susan Eidenschink, susaneiden@juno.com, (253) 572-9305.

Write your own will!
Join us for WROC Night Out
Mon., Jan. 8, 5:30 to 8:00 pm
First United Methodist Church, 1224 Legion Way SE

Potluck at 5:30, then the last will and testament party! Read famous people's wills. Write you own. An attorney will be on hand to help. On-site childcare provided. The Welfare Rights and Organizing Coalition (WROC) holds Volunteer Meetings and makes sock monkeys every Wednesday afternoon at 1:30 at the WROC office, 701 Franklin Street SE in the Payne Room of the First Christian Church.

14th annual NW regional int'l day of solidarity for Leonard Peltier
Sat., Feb. 10, Tacoma

Noon: March For Justice, Portland Ave. Park (on Portland Ave. between E. 35th & E. Fairbanks. Take Portland Ave. exit off I-5 and head east). **1 pm: Rally For Justice**, US Federal Courthouse, 1717 Pacific Ave.

Performances by: The Aztec Dancers, United Nations (native rap activists), Albert Combs. **Speakers:** Matilaja, Yu'Pik/Yakama; Tacoma LPSG:, M.C.; Robert Robideau, co-director of the LPDC and co-defendant; Shelly Vendiola, Indigenous Women's Network; Steve Hapy, Tacoma Leonard Peltier Support Group; Arthur J. Miller, Tacoma Leonard Peltier Support Group; David Duenas, Puyallup; Juan Jose Bocanegra, Every Worker's Movement; Frank Reynolds, Native American Coalition; Bill Bichsel, Catholic Worker, JWJ; Zoltan Grossman, OMJP, faculty Evergreen's Native American studies

Car pool from Olympia: There will be a carpool leaving from the parking lot at Harrison and Division at 10:30.

Donations needed! Please send to: Tacoma Leonard Peltier Support Group, PO Box 5464, Tacoma, WA 98415-0464. bayou@blarg.net.

Ground Zero Center plans MLK Day action at Bangor nuclear submarine base
Mon., Jan. 15, beginning at 8:30 am and continuing through the day at the Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action

We will hold a vigil and nonviolent direct action at the gates of the Naval Base Kitsap, Bangor to honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and to demand immediate withdrawal of US troops from Iraq and an end to the US nuclear weapons program. The largest concentration of nuclear weapons in the world is based at Bangor. The event will begin with nonviolence training at 8:30 am at the Kitsap Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 4418 Perry Ave., Bremerton. At 1:30, demonstrators will gather at the Ground Zero Center, 16159 Clear Creek Rd., NW, Poulsbo, to walk to the gate for the vigil and action. To join an affinity group prior to the event, or for directions or info, visit **www.gzcenter.org**, or call Anne Hall at (206) 545-3562, or Brian Watson at (360) 479-6399.

Citizens' Hearing on the legality of US actions in Iraq
Sat. & Sun., Jan. 20–21, at The Evergreen State College's Tacoma Campus (1210 6th Ave.)

The hearings are scheduled two weeks before the Feb. 5 court martial of Lt. Ehren Watada at Ft. Lewis. Organizing Committee member and UW-Tacoma associate prof. Rob Crawford says that the national event "will put the Iraq War on trial, in response to the Army's trial of Lt. Watada, the first US military officer to refuse deployment to Iraq." Visit **www.WarTribunal.org** for regular updates. For info about Lt. Watada, go to **www.ThankYouLT.org**

(See related articles on page 6.)

Winter garage sale fundraiser for our sister town of Santo Tomás, Nicaragua
Sat., Jan. 27, 9 am–3 pm, at Lincoln Elementary School (21st & Washington in Olympia). Donate your fabulous stuff and then come buy someone else's fabulous stuff at our annual garage sale. Proceeds benefit the children's free lunch program and tiny public library project in Santo Tomás. We welcome: collectibles, books, music, small appliances and kitchen items, lamps, clean clothes, framed art, tools, great furniture (no couches, fridges, stoves). Help support the ongoing work of the 17 year old **Thurston-Santo Tomás Sister County Association**.

Call Jean at 943-8642 to arrange for pick-up of your donations on the 2nd and 3rd weekends in January or you can help even more by dropping off fine, lightly-used household items at Lincoln on Friday the 26th, from 6 to 9pm.

Introduction to Community Delegation 2007—Santo Tomás, Nicaragua
Sun., Jan. 28, 4:30 pm at the Olympia Community Free School, 610 Columbia (across from Olympia Supply).

Have you ever considered visiting our sister community in Nicaragua? **Thurston Santo Tomás Sister County Association** will be sponsoring a delegation from Olympia to visit Santo Tomás this summer. To learn more about our community delegations, come to this Introductory Gathering. The 2007 delegation will visit and volunteer in projects in Santo Tomás. We will live with families who are members of our sister organization, the Committee for Community Development. We will also have the opportunity to visit social projects in other communities. People of all ages are welcome on our delegations. Please call Grace, 357-8323 or Emily, 480-8720 for more information.

Journey of the Spirit
Sun., Jan. 28, 3 pm
St John's Episcopal Church, 114 20th Ave. SE, Olympia

"Journey of the Spirit," a presentation of healing music and stories of the Saanich (Coast Salish) tribe, featuring Native American flute player and story teller, Che ok' ten (Paul Wagner). Sponsored by the St. John's Concert Series. Donations accepted. Info: Warren Guykema, (360) 556-7305

Constitution in crisis: the case for impeachment — a town hall meeting
Sat., Feb. 20, 7:00 pm at The Washington Center for Performing Arts, 512 SE, Olympia

The Citizens Movement to Impeach Bush/Cheney is organizing a Town Hall meeting on impeaching Bush and Cheney. In response to our request for the city of Olympia to call for impeachment, the Council has given us the use of the Washington Center for this free event. We have confirmed three speakers: **David Lindorff**, co-author of **The Case for Impeachment**; **Elizabeth de la Vega**, author of **United States v. George W. Bush**; and **Ray McGovern**, a 27-year CIA veteran and organizer of Veteran Intelligence Professionals for Sanity.

If you want to help, contact us at Impeachbush@riseup.net and/or come to our meetings on Monday nights, Thurston County Courthouse, 7–8:30 p.m., Building 2.

January 2007

Biological Weapons

Bush accuses others of what he is doing

July 2001: Bush opposes plan to strengthen 1972 biological weapons convention (BWC) w/ "prearranged and random inspections on private drug companies and state agencies." US biotech companies and US agencies which spend billions on "bio-defense" strongly protested against inspections.

September 4, 2001: NY Times reports "the Pentagon has built a germ factory that could make enough lethal microbes to wipe out entire cities"; Rumsfeld confirms research to genetically engineer a more lethal Anthrax.

September 10, 2001: Army applies for patent of grenade to wage biowarfare in direct violation of BWC. (Patent approved 2,25,2002)

September-October 2001: Anthrax is sent through the mail; five die.

2002: Navy and Air Force biotechnology laboratories propose development of offensive bioweapons.

April 2002: Two Anthrax leaks detected at Army biodefense lab at Fort Detrick MD.

May 2002: Undersecretary Bolton accuses Cuba of biotechnology weapon research./development, and of providing dual-use biotechnology to rogue nations.

2002: Armed Forces Institute of Pathology reconstructs 1918 "Spanish flu" virus.

2003: Colin Powell, before the United Nations, accuses Iraq of having the ability to create in 30 days enough anthrax and botulism "to kill thousands upon thousands of people."

2003: US government-funded scientists develop deadly forms of mousepox, rabbitpox, and cowpox viruses that are 100% lethal for mice, even when they are given antiviral drugs and a normally effective vaccine.

2003: Pentagon's Chemical/Biological Defense Program is revised to endorse "first-use" strike.

February 2004: Lt. Col. Korch, deputy dir. of Homeland Security's center at Ft Detrick, described its purpose as development of deadlier bacteria/ viruses, and new methods of delivering germ-warfare agents.

May, September 2004: Tularemia infections related to bioweapons research occur at Boston University.

2004: Military biodefense contractor accidentally sends live anthrax across the country from Frederick, Maryland to the Children's Hospital of Oakland CA

September 2006: US announces "reservations about China's current research activities and dual-use capabilities" of biological weapons technology

March 2006: House ignores BWC, passes bill to advance US plan to wage biological warfare in other countries, like Columbia, where illicit narcotics are produced.

Sources: Sherwood Ross, "Bush Developing Illegal Bioterror Weapons For Offensive Use"; Elizabeth Wolfe. "Scientists warn of possible international violations in U.S. bioweapons research", AP; The Sunshine Project; Richard Norton-Taylor, "Allies Alarmed as US Opposes Biological Weapons Inspection", The Guardian; "US Suspects China Developing Biological And Chemical Weapons", AFP; Debora MacKenzie, "US develops lethal new viruses", The New Scientist; Heather Wokusch, "Courting Armageddon"

...the number of Nat'l Inst. of Health grants to research infectious diseases w/ biowarfare potential shot up from 33 in 1995-2000 to 497.

1

2006: Bush defends federal warrantless wiretaps as "a limited program designed to prevent attacks on US

2

1882: Rockefeller organizes Standard Oil Trust to circumvent laws of states which set limits to his organization

3

2006: Ex-lobbyist Jack Abramoff pleads guilty to tax evasion, fraud and conspiracy to commit bribery

4

2006: Supreme Court rules to permit military transfer of accused enemy combatant Jose Padilla to Miami

5

2006: Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon undergoes surgery after suffering a massive stroke

6

2006: Pat Robertson says Ariel Sharon's stroke was divine punishment for pulling Israel out of Gaza

7

2006: Hugh Thompson, the Army pilot who rescued civilians during the My Lai massacre, dies of cancer

8

2006: Pres. Hamid Karzai says the booming drug trade represents a greater to Afghanistan than terrorism.

9

2006: WA Republican Sen. Bill Finkbeiner says he'll reverse stance to ensure the passage of a gay rights bill

10

1996: "Defeat Discrimination Day" rally at the capitol sponsored by Hands Off Washington and Privacy Fund

11

2006: Interior Dept agrees to open 400,000 acres on Alaska's North Slope for exploratory oil drilling

12

2006: Pat Robertson writes a letter of apology to Ariel Sharon's family and asks for their forgiveness

13

1997: Black WWII vet, Vernon Baker, receives Medal of Honor as 1st and only living African-American recipient

14

1878: US Supreme Court rules railroads needn't provide equal accommodations regardless of race

15

2006: Walter Cronkite, who concluded Vietnam War was unwinnable in 1968, says "we should get out" of Iraq

16

2006: NY Times reports the NSA swamped the FBI w/ phone numbers, names, and e-mail addresses after 9/11

17

2006: New UCLA alumni group offers $100 reward to students to tattle on "radical professors"

18

2006: Justice Dept says Bush has inherent authority as commander in chief to order warrantless wiretaps

19

1995: Protesters calling themselves Liberty Park Alliance, block logging crew access to ten-acre site near TESC

20

1949: J Edgar Hoover gives Shirley Temple a tear gas fountain pen
2000: Elian's grandmothers get visas to US

21

2006: It's reported Bush sent $2 million in foreign aid money to Palestinian Authority to defeat Hamas

22

2003: Several European members of NATO block decision on NATO support in an invasion of Iraq

23

2006: Federal judge rules Defense Dept must release the identities of Guantanamo Bay detainees to AP

24

1842: Citizens in Haverhill MA submit petition to Congress for peaceful dissolution of the Union

25

2006: The ruling Fatah party concedes Hamas has won a majority of seats in Palestine's legislative elections

26

1998: Federal judge blocks Navy from dismissing sailor who listed himself as "gay" on his AOL profile

27

2006: WA Legislature passes gay civil rights bill by 61 to 37 in the House and 25 to 23 in the Senate

28

1997: Weyerhauser paper plant chemical spill in Longview spreads bad odor across South Sound

29

2006: New documents show FEMA failed to give missions to federal officers and utilize available resources

30

2003: Belgium 2nd nation to allow gay marriage
2003: Boeing reports a $590 million profit in the 4th quarter

31

2006: 2 fed appeals courts overturn "partial-birth" abortion ban
2006: Senate confirms Alito w/ 58-42 vote

In violation of the US Code and international law, the Bush administration is illegally developing offensive germ warfare capabilities on an unprecedented scale. In fact, it is spending more on such weapons (in inflation-adjusted dollars) than the $2 billion spent on the "Manhattan Project" that made the atomic bomb in World War II.

Francis Boyle, professor of international law at the University of Illinois, author of "Biowarfare and Terrorism"

Ending homelessness as a new standard for Olympia

by Peter Bohmer

The anti-homeless sidewalk ordinances passed [on] Nov. 28 are one more pinprick in the war against the poor, against homeless and street people. It is part of the ongoing attempt to criminalize the poor rather than to determine causes and solutions to poverty, racism, homophobia, the lack of affordable housing and the lack of meaningful work at livable wages.

The city government in Olympia and many of its residents...are very liberal when it comes to opposing Bush and the war in Iraq, in denouncing the Nazis, and preaching tolerance. Unfortunately, this does not extend to doing what is necessary to end poverty and homelessness in Olympia. The city council, with a few exceptions like TJ Johnson, represents the homeowners and the businesses owners, not those with the least power and resources. We need to make it clear by our words and actions that we want a city council, a school board, county commissioners, Washington State legislators and other elected officials that put the needs of the poorest first. We need to say loud and clear, Not in Our Name, to the privatization of sidewalks.

It is important to oppose and stop the war in Iraq, and to call for the impeachment of Bush and Cheney. But we must also connect this to the war at home, the cutbacks in public housing, the decline of college scholarships, the ending of welfare, the decline in wages and the lack of affordable and quality health care. The main public housing programs in this country today are prisons and jails. The latest number is 2.2 million people locked up, the majority of whom are black and other people of color, the overwhelming majority of whom are poor. That the U.S. lock up millions and that housing is not affordable to millions more is shameful, should not be tolerated and can be changed in Olympia and nationally.

The causes of poverty and solutions to it are not that difficult to figure out. Whether homelessness ends depends partly on what each of us does in ways big and small. Let us reflect and act on this as Christmas approaches.

Why homelessness

We are living in a society where there is a one-sided class war going on by the wealthy against the rest of us, with the poor as the scapegoats. This has been going on all over the world, sometimes it is called globalization, other times neoliberalism. Multinational corporations move production and their money all over the world seeking the highest profits -- the Wal-Mart business model. It is a race to the bottom as corporations force us to compete against each other, as they demand lower and lower wages, lower taxes and less government spending except for the police and the military, and fewer environmental regulations. So real wages are falling for the majority. This would already make housing less affordable.

In addition, for people mainly in the higher income brackets, housing no longer means a place to live and call home but rather a means to make money from speculating, by buying houses with the intent of selling at a higher price, that is, speculation. It is just another financial investment to them. This buying and selling of houses is one reason for the skyrocketing housing prices in much of the U.S., including Olympia. This speculative bubble may be bursting. Add in the lack of federal money for public housing, the major cutbacks in subsidies for rental assistance, section 8, and the result is the growth of homelessness and many tens of millions of vulnerable individuals and families who are paying 50% or more of their income for housing.

Housing prices have gone up far more than the inflation rate or wages over the last 20 years and particularly in the last five years for buyers and renters; so have electricity and heating costs. So housing is less and less affordable. In Olympia and the South Sound, the price of a house has been going up by far more than 10% a year for the last five years while inflation and wages have been growing at about 2% per year.

This escalating cost for shelter causes financial stress in low income and working families. The decreasing public support for single parent and low income families and the longer hours people have to work to pay for rent and other necessities contribute to a more stressful family life and is a contributor to youth homelessness.

Another contributing factor is the way those in power discard veterans from the Vietnam and Iraq wars. Once these ex-soldiers are no longer fighting, their social and economic problems, many caused by their military service, are of no concern to those in power. Many end up isolated and on the streets.

People are homeless because they do not have the income to afford their own place. The declining income in so many jobs, the lack of public resources for housing and the growing cost of housing is why at least 2 million people are homeless, and many more are barely hanging on. Drug and alcohol addiction and mental illness are contributing factors, compounded by the cutbacks in Federal funding for mental health programs. (Wealthy people with these problems do not end up homeless.) Poverty and homelessness are on the rise, nationally and in this area. The almost 40 million who are officially poor, and 80 million more, who have little or no savings are in a vulnerable and insecure economic situation. If someone in their family lost their job for more than a few weeks, they could soon lose their housing.

Housing as a human right

So the solution is not complicated: quality affordable housing for all. In Olympia, overturning these anti-sitting-on-the-sidewalk-for-poor-people ordinances is a necessary but not sufficient step.

Let us demand of this city, of Thurston county, the State of Washington and the Federal government that they put into practice the Universal Declaration of Human Rights—that housing is a fundamental human right. To make this happen, we need to organize for rent control, statewide and in Olympia, and to simultaneously increase the supply of affordable permanent housing by building public housing that is designed and run by the people who will live there, self-management, and by passing laws so more private affordable housing is built.

Olympia can do its part. Let the city council and the county commissioners put some effort and money into this. Rather than spending time and resources on criminalizing the poor, they should work to get State and Federal money. Let us reduce the prison and jail population and use the money that locks people up for housing without bars. They, the government, and we should end the war in Iraq because it is immoral and illegal and because the money should be spent at home and for reparations to Iraq.

Let us connect more the peace and economic justice movements. I am a member of OMJP, the Olympia Movement for Justice and Peace.

We consciously mention justice before peace in our name.

To those of us who are not poor, let us

▸ **Homeless** continued on page 8

Oaxaca repression stems from US pressure to exploit

by Rochelle Gause

The six month old teacher's strike turned popular uprising in Oaxaca has continued to face incredible government repression throughout the past month. The repressive acts began in the hands of the state government death squads, composed of plainclothed police and PRI supporters, and grew through the arrival of the Federal Preventative Police in Oaxaca at the end of October. The illegal detentions peaked on Nov. 25, in time to clean things up in preparation for Felipe Calderon's inauguration as the fraudulently elected new President of Mexico. Of the 150 detained on the 25th, Oaxaca state governor, Ulises Ruiz Ortiz, admitted that up to 80% were in no way connected to APPO (Popular Assembly of the Peoples of Oaxaca), the main coordinating body of the movement.

Throughout the last six months, there have been over 500 people detained; almost all who have been released reported psychological and physical torture. Currently there are over 140 remaining in prison, the majority transferred to federal prison in states outside Oaxaca, far from their families and lawyers and denied medical attention. Stories coming out of these prisons include torture, 60 reports of sexual assault, rape threats and forced false confessions.

On Dec.17, a 2,000-strong women's march was held to welcome home 43 prisoners who were released. As the prisoners climbed off the buses some were wearing blood stained and torn clothing. When asked by reporters about their treatment, many stated they were unable to comment because they were told if they do those remaining in prison will pay for it. Action can be taken on behalf of those still in prison through Amnesty International at http://web.amnesty.org/pages/mex-201206-action-eng

There are still many outstanding arrest warrants for members of APPO. Because one of the major goals of APPO has been to create a democratic governance structure, they have been highly transparent and the names of those involved and elected as representatives of various regions are easily found in meeting minutes and online. This has made it easy for the government to target those involved in the movement. The police have made numerous private home searches and have taken teachers from in front of their students in their classrooms, in front of children as young as kindergarteners. On top of the detentions, an unclear number of movement members remain disappeared and the death toll is now over 20.

Very few detentions of those responsible for the murders have taken place. The two men detained for the murder of Brad Will, the New York independent journalist killed in late September, have been released. Three others known to have been involved in the shooting were never detained. All five were either PRI elected officials, PRI supporters, or plain clothed state police officers. Now the state government is attempting to blame Brad's murder on members of APPO even though numerous witnesses are certain that the above five men shot in Brad's direction.

Recently, in Agua Fría 120 miles north of Oaxaca City, Raúl Marcial Pérez, an editorialist for the regional daily El Gráfico and indigenous leader, was murdered in his office. His weekly column has been focused on the corruption of the state government and he had exposed human rights abuses committed by supporters of Governor Ulíses Ruiz Ortiz.

On Nov. 29, the government leaked that they had compiled a list of 100 internationals from video footage who they alleged were committing vandalism alongside the movement and who they intended to deport. I am not sure I believe such a list exists (not to mention that I have never seen close to 100 internationals in Oaxaca). It may have simply been a fear tactic, but this combined with the news that they had picked up a French woman whose lawyers were unable to speak to her or find out where she was, I decided it was best to leave. Although it is difficult not being able to be on the ground in Oaxaca, in some ways I am thankful to not have to witness the state efforts to try to erase the signs of the movement by painting over the entire city as I hear from friends who are still in the city.

On December 1, Felipe Calderon from the conservative PAN party, who took the election through fraud, was inaugurated. Thousands gathered outside before dawn, constructing barriers to prevent Calderon's entrance into the Chamber of Deputies. Inside brawls had broken out between members of the PAN and PRD (the party of leftist Lopez Obrador who was cheated out of the position) parties. Chairs had been thrown, doors blockaded, and pillows were handed out as the members of the different parties fought over sleeping on the platform where the inauguration was to take place. A fake presidential convoy was used to distract the demonstrators while Calderon snuck in through a basement parking garage.

The entire ceremony took less than 4 minutes and it was impossible to hear over the screaming from PRD members. Calderon was later able to give a speech in a military installation. I watched on television as he spoke to an audience of men in uniform standing in formation. Oh, democracy.

In less than a month Calderon has already made cuts to education and has created a cabinet including Francisco Javier Ramírez Acuña as his Interior Minister, in charge of domestic security. Ramírez, past governor of Jalisco, was accused by Amnesty International of serious human rights violations, including ordering a brutal crackdown on anti-corporate globalization protesters. Eduardo Medina Mora was selected as Secretary of Public Safety. He has strong ties to banking interests and is a member of El Yunque, an ultraconservative group. Making his policy clear in dealing with social uprising, on Dec. 4, members of APPO including two highly visible elected representatives were arrested in Mexico City two hours after announcing they had come to negotiate with the federal government.

On Dec. 3, APPO released a declaration stating, "The APPO is more alive than ever in the hearts of the workers, indigenous people, campesinos, housewives, students, youth, children, and all the exploited and oppressed in Oaxaca and Mexico. The State Terror that has been unleashed on the people of Oaxaca and the international community with increased brutality since November 25 has not weakened our desire to be free men and women." A march was held on Dec. 10. Even in the face of the incredible risk of being arrested and tortured, tens of thousands marched, calling for the release of prisoners and continuing the call for Governor Ulises to go.

So much of the state response is created through pressure from the United States to maintain the status quo, to keep the positive climate for foreign investors to come in and take the resources and exploit the labor of Mexico without opposition from the ever-growing poor, which in turn keeps the pockets of the Mexican elite lined with dollars. This corruption and repression is facing greater and greater resistance and we can recognize our own role in the situation and support the movement, however we deem possible.

The Zapatistas in Chiapas called for an International Day of Action on December 22 in solidarity with people of Oaxaca. According to the Zapatistas the goals of the actions include "the living reappearance of the disappeared, for the freedom of the detained, for the exit of Ulises Ruiz and the federal forces from Oaxaca, for the punishment of those guilty of torture, rape and murder." Actions occurred in 13 states in the U.S., including Seattle as well as worldwide in Canada, Spain, France, Brazil, Germany, Portugal and Belgium. This display of international solidarity provides support while the movement regroups and prepares for the future.

The movement in Oaxaca is far from over. APPO has continued to meet and three marches occurred last week. Thanks for following these events, taking action and keeping the people of Oaxaca in your hearts and minds.

Rochelle Gause is an Olympia activist who was in Oaxaca since the uprising began in June, and has served as a delegate with the Olympia–Rafah Sister City Project.

Resist the privatization of our Postal Service

Nader echoes local advocate Clint Burleson about the pitfalls of corporatizing the USPS

by Ralph Nader

The lack of citizen-consumers' involvement in the recently passed postal reform legislation has highlighted the need for a public dialogue about the future of our postal system. Christopher Shaw's book, Preserving the People's Post Office, provides a starting point for that conversation.

When I was growing up in New England during the 1940's, the symbol for reliability, punctuality, and efficiency was the United States Post Office. Indeed, people could almost tell the time of day by the postman's twice-a-day delivery rounds.

Unfortunately, ever since President Lyndon B. Johnson appointed a commission to reorganize the Post Office on "a business basis" in 1967, the postal system has been in a defensive posture, tied down by demands from such groups as major corporate mailers, competitive rivals, and partisan politicos. There has been no place for bold new ventures of the past, such as Rural Free Delivery, Parcel Post, Postal Savings, or Air Mail. If the Post Office Department had been responding to the profit-making demands of the market or to the political influence of large corporations, none of these advances would have even been attempted. Parcel Post, lest we forget, was introduced in the face of corporate competitors' opposition due to the fact that they were providing an entirely unsatisfactory, oftentimes price gouging, service to large parts of the nation.

How the Postal Service benefits us

President Ronald Reagan called government "the problem." Was government the problem when the Post Office made open communications between the Continental Congress and George Washington's army possible during the Revolutionary War? Was government the problem when the Post Office provided invaluable aid to the establishment of a vibrant national and local press by delivering periodicals throughout the land? How about when the Post Office Department constructed a national infrastructure for aviation? Is government the problem when letters and packages from home reach military personnel in distant parts of the world today? Or when citizen organizations are enabled or often made possible by a non-profit postage rate? When universal service--uniform service at uniform rates throughout the country--allows friends and families to exchange letters, cards, and packages? When semi-postals raise tens of millions of dollars for breast cancer research? When the National Association of Letter Carriers' National Food Drive collects over 70 million pounds of food to help alleviate the nation's shameful hunger crisis? Through the postal system, as Christopher Shaw describes in *Preserving the People's Post Office*, the national government has long played a beneficial role in our lives. For that and other ideological reasons, corporatists with no regard for the value of universal postal service are waging a campaign to destroy the world's finest postal system.

Absence of an understanding of the Postal Service as a public service has allowed corporatists to obscure our postal system's defining mission: "to bind the nation together." There are promoters of a corporate postal system who would ultimately like to steal the Postal Service from the American people by eliminating its public service function and "privatizing" (corporatizing) it. Operation of the postal system on "a business basis" has helped make their case for them.

Aunt Minnie's comeuppance

Preserving the People's Post Office demonstrates how a patronizing attitude toward the individual postal patron—"Aunt Minnie"—that accompanies a corporate mindset has caused service reductions for the general public, as the relentless pressure of corporate demands for receiving preferential services burdens the citizenry more and more. Instead of focusing on new ways for our government to serve its citizens through the Postal Service, service reductions--such as closing post offices, removing collection boxes, and ending door delivery--have shifted emphasis to business practices focusing on how much the traffic will bear, further diminishing the spirit of public service.

The recent push for postal "reform" legislation demonstrates the degree to which the public has been marginalized. Postal Service management, major mailers, corporate ideologues, business competitors, postmaster associations and the beleaguered postal unions have all been included in this legislative process, but there has been a noticeable absence--the consumer, who has been excluded from having a seat at the table. Instead of being discarded, as they largely should have been, the recommendations of the recent corporate dominated President's Commission on the Postal Service, which were not public service oriented, are apparent in the legislation.

> The American Postal Workers Union has been the sole union voice consistently advocating the universal public service principle.

Postal unions and postmaster associations represent memberships committed to serving patrons, and these organizations do show a willingness to reach out to consumers. But the American Postal Workers Union has been the sole union voice consistently advocating the universal public service principle. Greater efforts on this front could reap even larger rewards for both postal employees and postal patrons, as united they could forge jointly a more robust and vital Postal Service. An annual "Postal Appreciation Day" held in towns throughout America, replete with a parade to the downtown post office, would provide an opportunity for postal workers and postal patrons to unite, interact, and demonstrate their shared esteem for this valuable public institution.

Fortunately there is a single solution that would go a long way toward solving this lack of organized and skilled consumer participation--the proposal for an independent non-profit Post Office Consumer Action Group (POCAG). Several million people would join. All that is required is a simple law directing the Postal Service to send residential postal patrons a letter twice-a-year giving them the opportunity to pay a small amount of dues in order to join POCAG.

Postal officials have been putting off this proposal for decades, but their excuses for not delivering materials making consumers aware of POCAG become more and more indefensible: The Postal Service has now begun delivering postcards to all residences nationwide carrying postal promotional messages from cartoon characters. So why not send a notice for POCAG? Through this suggested action group, residential postal consumers can become organized, as Mr. Shaw describes, to shape consumer-friendly postal policies and create an expanding and vigorous American postal system that would make our first Postmaster General Benjamin Franklin proud.

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Works In Progress still needs more help

If you would like to join the all-volunteer WIP worker collective, there will be at least one more public recruitment meeting where you can meet with collective members and figure how to plug in. Join us:

Sunday, January 14, 4:30-6:00 pm at Fertile Ground Guesthouse, 311 9th Ave SE, Olympia

Citizens' Hearing to put Iraq War "on trial"

The "Citizens' Hearing on the Legality of US Actions in Iraq" will be held on January 20–21, 2007, in Tacoma, Washington, two weeks before the Feb. 5 court martial of 1st Lieutenant Ehren Watada at Fort Lewis. Organizing Committee members Rob Crawford, Associate Professor at the University of Washington, Tacoma says that the national event "will put the Iraq War on trial, in response to the Army's trial of Lt. Watada, the first US military officer to refuse deployment to Iraq."

Organizers announced the upcoming tribunal on Dec. 11, on the 60th anniversary of the United Nations General Assembly's affirmation of the Nuremberg Principles, which--in the aftermath of World War II--disallowed soldiers from following unlawful orders that can lead to war crimes.

Nuremberg Trials prosecutor Benjamin Ferencz, 86, said that "The enduring lessons and principles of the Nuremberg trials were that aggressive war is 'the supreme international crime' since it incorporates all of the other crimes. In addition, Nuremberg held that those responsible for crimes against humanity and major war crimes will have to answer before the bar of justice."

Iraq War veterans, experts in international law and war crimes, and human rights advocates will offer testimony in a format that will resemble that of a congressional committee. According to Dr. Lawrence Mosqueda, member of the Organizing Committee and Professor at Evergreen State College: "We are inviting testimony by Iraq War veterans and experts to inform military personnel and other citizens to reflect deeply on their roles and responsibilities in an illegal war." Testifiers include:

Denis Halliday, Former UN Assistant Secretary General, coordinated Iraq humanitarian aid;

Daniel Ellsberg, military analyst who released the Pentagon Papers in the Vietnam War;

Richard Falk, Professor Emeritus of International Law at Princeton University;

Nadia McCaffrey, Gold Star Families Speak Out; Brussels Tribunal advisory board;

Harvey Tharp, former US Navy Lieutenant and JAG stationed in Iraq;

Antonia Juhasz, policy-analyst and author on US economic policies in Iraq;

John Burroughs, Lawyers' Committee on Nuclear Policy Executive Director;

Eman Khammas, Iraqi human rights advocate (via video).

Benjamin G. Davis, Assoc. Prof. of Law, University of Toledo; expert on law of war.

Geoffrey Millard, 8 years in Army National Guard; now in Iraq Veterans Against the War.

The hearing will present the case that Lt. Watada would, if allowed, make at his court martial. His defense attorneys maintain that the war on Iraq is illegal under international treaties and under Article Six of the US Constitution. Further, Lt. Watada's defense argues that the Nuremberg Principles and US military regulations require soldiers to follow only "lawful orders." In Lt. Watada's view, deployment to Iraq would have made him party to the crimes that permeate the structure and conduct of military operations there.

A panel comprised of military veterans, members of military families, students, and representatives of labor unions, local governments, academia, and religious organizations will hear the testimony, examine witnesses, and issue a fact-finding report. Panelists will focus on the legality of the war, whether the invasion of Iraq in 2003 constituted a "crime against the peace," whether the military occupation and economic constriction of Iraq constitutes a "crime against humanity," and whether individual soldiers have an obligation or duty to refuse unlawful orders.

David Krieger, who was a U.S. Army 2nd Lieutenant stationed in Hawaii during the Vietnam War, and is currently the President of the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation will serve as panel chair. Krieger, who was a member of the Jury of Conscience at the 2005 World Tribunal on Iraq, observes, "The Citizens' Hearing will place the legality of the Iraq War on trial. U.S. soldiers have always had the duty to disobey unlawful orders. That obligation was strengthened at the Nuremberg Tribunals following World War II. Following superior orders to commit unlawful acts is not a defense."

Krieger asserts, "Lt. Watada's position is that if the war itself is illegal, which he believes it to be, then orders to participate in the war must also be illegal. There is a duty to disobey such orders. If this position cannot be tried in U.S. courts, it must be tried before the court of public opinion."

Lietta Ruger of Military Families Speak Out (MSFO), Washington state chapter, says: "this hearing will focus attention on the role of the US government—rather than that of individual soldiers—in perpetrating the crimes of the Iraq War."

Tribunal organizer and Evergreen State College geography professor Dr. Zoltan Grossman comments: "The Citizens' Hearing will focus critical attention on the underlying premises of the Iraq War at a critical time when its future is being decided. The Citizens' Hearing will heighten the discussion of the Iraq invasion and occupation in the public—and within the military itself—as similar tribunals did during the Vietnam War."

Nuremberg Trials prosecutor Benjamin Ferencz concludes, "The best way to protect the lives of courageous young people who serve in the military is to avoid war-making itself. One cannot kill an idea with a gun, but only with a better idea. If people believe that law is better than war, they must do all they can to enhance the power of law and stop glorifying war."

The Evergreen State College's Tacoma Campus (1210 6th Ave) will host The Citizens' Hearing on January 20–21, 2007.

The organizers of the Citizens' Hearing are also launching a new website: www.WarTribunal.org to provide regular updates about the project.

For more information about the case of U.S. Army Lt. Ehren Watada, go to *www.ThankYouLT.org*

Watada pre-trial vigil for supporters

Lieutenant Ehren Watada's pre-trial hearing is set for January 4. Local supporters will hold a vigil on the bridge at Exit 119, I-5 at dawn and dusk.

Watada takes the position that the war in Iraq is illegal, and that the conduct of the war and occupation is directed illegally, from above. At least six generals have spoken out against the direction of the war. The Lieutenant is not alone in expressing concern for the innocent people of Iraq and the lives of US soldiers caught in a bloody civil war. 1,000 soldiers just submitted a petition to Congress resisting service in Iraq.

Speaking as a citizen, Ehren Watada expresses widely held concerns: "We have all seen this war tear apart our country over the past three years. It seems as though nothing we've done, from vigils to protests to letters to Congress, have had any effect in persuading the powers that be."

He further states, "I did not choose to be a leader for popularity. I did it to serve and make better the soldiers of this country. And I swore to carry out this charge honorably under the rule of law."

Lt. Watada's thinking echoes the Nuremburg trials. One of the principles defined at Nuremburg states it is an inadequate defense of war crimes to argue that one was only following orders.

Ehren exercises his rights as a thoughtful, reflective American and US Army officer.

Two statements summarize Watada's concerns:

"Widespread torture and inhumane treatment of detainees is a war crime. A war of aggression born through an unofficial policy of prevention is a crime against the peace. An occupation violating the very essence of international humanitarian law and sovereignty is a crime against humanity."

His conclusion is cause for our own reflection: "Should citizens choose to remain silent through…ignorance or choice, it makes them as culpable as the soldier in these crimes."

We are indeed in this together, with results of our actions affecting millions in the Middle East, and here, disastrously; for generations to come.

Lt. Watada during pre-trial hearing break on Fort Lewis, Aug. 17, 2006.
Photo by David Belisle.

Indian Island defendants to appear in court

Appeals include emphasis of international law, depleted uranium use, crimes against humanity

On Sept. 23, thirty-seven people were arrested sitting outside the gates of Naval Magazine Indian Island as part of a nationwide campaign called the Declaration of Peace. Among the arrested were Olympia residents Molly Gibbs and Bernie Meyer.

Protesters were also arrested at the port of Olympia and in Representative Rick Larsen's office in Bellingham. Defendants are charged with disorderly conduct, which is a misdemeanor. They face a maximum penalty of 90 days in jail and $1,000 fine. Donations for legal defense costs are needed. Contact Liz Rivera Goldstein at 360-379-9094 for more information.

Gibbs and Meyer will appear on a local TCTV *Veterans for Peace* program in January. Watch the schedule to hear personal reasons both chose to be arrested.

Gibbs and Marion Ward, two Indian Island defendants, will participate in lobbying efforts organized by United for Peace and Justice on Jan. 29. There will also be a massive march on Washington, D.C., on Saturday, Jan. 27, to call on Congress to take immediate action to end the war and occupation. Watch for announcements of similar demonstrations scheduled in Seattle and locally on Jan. 27. Join us in lobbying your representatives to block the war supplemental request of $127 billion more, which Bush will send to Congress in February.

Above: Thirty-seven people have been charged with disorderly conduct, a misdemeanor, for sitting outside the gates of Naval Magazine Indian Island on September 23 as part of a nationwide campaign called the Declaration of Peace.
Photo by Jane Ramirez.

Below: Women In Black holding vigil at the Indian Island Weapons depot, Sept. 23, 2006.
Photo by Elliot Stoller.

NGO admits errors in statement of Gaza situation

Human Rights Watch press release, December 16, 2006

In our December issue, Works In Progress *published an article by Norman Finkelstein in which he challenged Human Rights Watch for the statement addressed in this press release from HRW.*

We regret that our press release, "OPT: Civilians Must Not Be Used to Shield Homes Against Military Attacks," gave many readers the impression that we were criticizing civilians for engaging in nonviolent resistance. This was not our intention. It is not the policy of the organization to criticize non-violent resistance or any other form of peaceful protest, including civilians defending their homes. Rather, our focus is on the behavior of public officials and military commanders because they have responsibilities under international law to protect civilians.

It has also become clear to us that we erred in assessing the main incident described in the press release. We said that the planned IDF attack on the house of a military commander in the Popular Resistance Committee, Muhammadwail Barud, fell within the purview of the law regulating the conduct of hostilities during armed conflict. We criticized Barud for reportedly urging civilians to assemble near the house in order to prevent the attack, in apparent violation of that law. Our focus was not on the civilians who assembled, their state of mind, or their behavior (such as whether they willingly assembled or not), but on Barud for risking the lives of civilians.

We have since concluded that we were wrong, on the basis of the available evidence, to characterize the IDF's planned destruction of the house as an act of war. If the planned attack against the house – a three-story building housing three families - was, in fact, an administrative action by the Israeli government aimed at punishing a militant for his alleged activities, the law regulating the conduct of hostilities during armed conflict would not apply and could not be violated.

> We recognize that it is important to view the planned destruction of Barud's house in light of Israel's longstanding policy in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, sharply increased in Gaza since June, of demolishing houses not as legitimate military targets but as a punitive measure.

An important consideration in this regard is whether the IDF had reason to believe that the house was being used for military purposes at the time of the planned attack. To date, Human Rights Watch has not obtained conclusive evidence as to whether the house was being so used, but eyewitnesses we have been able to speak with, including two journalists on the scene, claim they saw no such evidence. The IDF, moreover, has not responded to our requests to explain what military objective it could have had in targeting not a militant but his home after having ordered it vacated.

We recognize that it is important to view the planned destruction of Barud's house in light of Israel's longstanding policy in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, sharply increased in Gaza since June, of demolishing houses not as legitimate military targets but as a punitive measure. HRW has repeatedly criticized Israel for unlawful demolition of houses.

Our intention in issuing this press release was to underscore one of the most fundamental principles of international humanitarian law: the obligation of warring parties to take all feasible measures to spare civilians from harm. This includes the important principle that parties to a conflict, including military leaders and civilian officials, may not use civilians to "shield" against a military attack or otherwise unnecessarily put civilian lives at risk. Unfortunately, judging by the response, we did more to cloud the issues than clarify them in the press release.

This continues to be a live issue in the Israeli-Palestinian armed conflict. In July 2006, Israeli and Palestinian human rights groups documented the IDF's forcible use of Palestinians as human shields in a well publicized incident during military operations in Beit Hanoun. According to the groups,

the IDF blindfolded six civilians, including two minors, and forced them to stand in front of soldiers who took over civilian homes during a raid in northern Gaza. And on November 3, Hamas militants hid behind civilian women when exiting from a mosque where the militants had been cornered by IDF forces after more than two days of fighting. The fact that the women voluntarily went to aid the men does not absolve the militants of their duty not to endanger civilians. Both of these cases took place in the course of armed conflict so that the laws of war did apply.

We invite readers to visit our website at www.hrw.org to see all that we have said on the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians. We continue to urge all parties to this conflict to respect international humanitarian law, whatever their share of its violations, and most important, to keep civilians out of it as much as possible.

▸ **Homeless** continued from page 4

treat the poor and homeless like we ourselves want to be treated. Being treated with dignity and respect is a basic human right.

We need to reach out to the residents of Olympia, many of whom fear street people downtown because they look a little different or because they weren't there 20 years ago. As Pat Tassoni mentioned in his excellent article in the November Works In Progress, and tonight, Olympia is one of the three safest cities in the country. So although the fear is there, the reality is very different.

Let us defeat the campaign of the downtown business association, the Olympia Downtown Association (ODA), to run those without ample purchasing power out of downtown. Businesses downtown should fight against the Wal-Marts coming to town if their sales are declining, rather than scapegoating and criminalizing street people. An Olympia and a U.S. that is more diverse ethnically and culturally, that welcomes and values immigrants and poor people, and also makes it a community and governmental responsibility that everyone has basic housing, health, food, public transportation, education and a basic income is a much more interesting and vibrant community than one that is more homogeneous. We can end homelessness here by 1) making housing affordable or 2) running out poor people by making it impossible for them to live here because of economic and political decisions and through police harassment and repression of the poor. The first way is the humane and moral way.

We need to do outreach to build a movement of poor and working class and middle income people that sees our common interests for an affordable Olympia, and that puts the needs of those with the least resources first. We need to talk to our neighbors, friends, coworkers, members in our church, and other groups we belong to about building an inclusive Olympia. A movement of the people who are being harmed by this inhumane and immoral and environmentally unsustainable economic system, we the majority, can make another world possible. In building this movement for economic justice, it is important that poor people play a major part in it. If this reactionary ordinance goes into effect, maybe we should commit civil disobedience and make it unenforceable by hundreds of us sitting down on the sidewalks, downtown, the day it goes into effect.

An Injury to One is an Injury to All!

Excerpts from a speech by Bohmer, an Evergreen professor and community organizer, given at the OMJP Community Forum at the Olympia Center on Dec. 6, 2006.

▸ **Swift** continued from page 1

sexually involved with a subordinate who fears for her life and is desperate to survive, and whose only means of survival is to do whatever that commander tells her to do. Exploiting such a situation for sexual favors is called "command rape." It is every bit coercive, whether or not the commander thinks it was consensual, and whether or not he wants to take responsibility for his conduct.

Several people witnessed the "in my bed, naked" statement. This is not in dispute.

Upon Swift's forced return to Fort Lewis, she was placed in the custody of the same person who had openly harassed her before.

Confirmed perpetrators went unpunished. The man who made the "in my bed, naked" remark was merely transferred to another unit, instead of being brought before a judicial hearing.

Only the most minimal investigation was conducted. Several times the assault was reported, with no investigation. Eventually, the Army did assign one person to investigate the allegations.

He investigated for three days when a 30 day investigation is mandated. This investigator interviewed Swift for one hour, and asked that she not go into detail about exactly what was said. Nothing ever became of the investigation.

Swift has received far more punishment for going AWOL than is normal. Generally, AWOL soldiers who return are processed out with an administrative discharge and no punishment. Retaliatiory punishment is common for AWOL soldiers who speak out against the war, but it is even worse when the soldier's only "crime" is speaking out about rape.

Suzanne Swift is not being punished as an AWOL soldier, but rather as a whistleblower. She spoke up about her abuse, defying the military's high-priced public image campaign, and exposing the military as a violator of its own "equal-opportunity" pledge.

Superior officers, as well as the military itself, simply cannot be held immune from accountability for their actions. If the military will not hold itself accountable to prosecuting sexual assault, then we must hold it accountable.

Swift must be immediately released from the military environment that has abused her. Suzanne Swift deserves an honorable discharge, full medical for life to treat the PTSD from her abuse, and a sincere pledge that nobody will have to go through this abuse at the hands of their superiors ever again.

Wally Cuddeford is an Olympia resident, US Navy veteran, and organizer with the South Sound Project for Military Resistance and Justice, and the Port Militarization Resistance.

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BOTANICAL HAIR CARE PRODUCTS

▸ **Plan B** continued from page 1

access to emergency contraception in the Olympia area, the formal complaint process is lengthy, and it would be unrealistic to expect a quick fix from the Pharmacy Board. Likewise, local legislators are exploring the possibility of introducing legislation to ensure access to all birth control options, but this process could also take years.

Other community activists share Severn's concerns about causing financial damage to locally-owned businesses. Anna Schlecht attended the last Plan B Oly boycotting organizing meeting to share her worries that the boycott was causing a rift in the progressive community between those people who place high priority on shopping at locally-owned businesses, and those who are unwilling to patronize a store that limits women's health care choices. "It's important that we support local business," said Schlecht, "but I understand it's important to hold local community members to a standard of our community."

Anna Schlecht proposed that a discussion of this issue would be helpful. Boycott organizer and president of Thurston County National Organization for Women, Linda Malanchuk-Finnan took the lead in organizing a discussion on TCTV's *Progressive Roundtable*, which addressed this issue, hosted by Clint Burelson and Ryan, with guests Malanchuk-Finnan and boycott organizer Irene Lewis. The show will air on Tuesdays at 8–9 pm and Wednesdays at 2–3 pm throughout January.

When to stop supporting local stores

Ryan feels that the fact that Ralph's and Bayview are locally owned is, in fact, a good reason to choose to boycott. It is easier to apply pressure to a local, smaller store than to a large, corporate chain. Although Ryan believes there are good reasons to shop locally, she doesn't think that means consumers should excuse blatant breaches of community standards. "Buy local except when local dehumanizes," Ryan said. "What if they exploited their workers? Should we still support them because they're local?"

> Although Ryan believes there are good reasons to shop locally, she doesn't think that means consumers should excuse blatant breaches of community standards.

Ryan also believes that the store owners, despite being local, have chosen to enter into an issue that is being played out nationally. "Stormans is participating in a national campaign to deny women health care. The anti-choice movement has moved away from legislative and legal solutions, and toward targeting and disabling consumers, denying access to reproductive health care, rather than making those choices illegal."

It can be difficult to balance the competing values of shopping locally versus shopping at a store that does not deny women access to a full range of birth control choices. Many boycotters have shifted the bulk of their grocery shopping to the Olympia Food Co-op, which places a very strong emphasis on stocking locally grown and produced items. When asked if sales at the Co-op had grown since the boycott began, staff collective member Grace Cox reported that "the growth rate at our east side store has been relatively steady throughout the year." Judging from how hard it is to find a parking spot at the Eastside Co-op these days, it would seem that the growth rate has been substantial.

Other consumers have begun shopping at Top Foods, rather than Ralph's or Bayview. Among shoppers making this switch is the Governor's Mansion; the *Olympian* recently reported that the staff at the mansion, with the governor's knowledge, had shifted its grocery account from Bayview to Top Foods. Holly Armstrong, spokesperson for Christine Gregoire, when asked about whether this switch from Bayview to Top Foods signified support for the boycott, replied that the governor "was recently in the middle of dealing with the Board of Pharmacy on this issue, and then all of a sudden someone she does a lot of business with put himself right in the middle of the controversy. That weighed significantly in her decision regarding the switch." However, Armstrong added that other factors were involved. "The mansion staff is spending less at Top Foods, which is also a Washington company."

Status of Stormans

A lot of rumors are circulating about how severely the boycott is impacting Ralph's and Bayview financially. Many of these rumors are difficult to verify. Boycott organizers were surprised (although not displeased) to hear the figure of $1.2 million in lost sales mentioned. Based on the pledge cards collected in July and pledges made online at the Plan B Oly website, sales losses of $300,000 in five months would have been more in line with expectations. Of course, many people are boycotting without having made a pledge to boycott. Despite repeated attempts to speak with Kevin Stormans, vice-president of Stormans Inc., he could not be reached to confirm or deny this rumor.

Some people have remarked that the quality of the merchandise at Ralph's and Bayview has deteriorated as the boycott continues and that items past their pull dates are still on the shelves. Another rumor is that the store is unable to stock some items because of credit problems with their suppliers. In addition, it is rumored that employees have been fired or lost hours because of the boycott. An investigation into these issues has proven these rumors to be exaggerated.

Works in Progress enlisted two "mystery shoppers," women who support the boycott, to walk through the stores to see if the quality of merchandise seemed compromised, and to check on pull dates. Both undercover boycotters found these rumors to be unsubstantiated by the evidence. One mystery shopper, Jenny Jenkins, chatted up a few store employees while cruising around Bayview, checking pull dates. One employee told her that a few people had been laid off due to the boycott. However, Teresa Iverson, President of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 367, the union which represents the retail employees at Ralph's and Bayview, reported on Dec. 7 that although there has been some normal personnel turnover at the stores in the last six months, there have been no layoffs related to the boycott, and "we are still being told by our members that no one has lost hours." In fact, within the last month, both Ralph's and Bayview have been advertising that the stores are hiring.

Verifying rumors about problems with suppliers proved difficult, as businesses that sell their products at Ralph's and Bayview are understandably reluctant to speak on the record. Nevertheless, two suppliers reported that business had dropped off somewhat since the boycott began. One local business owner who sells products in Ralph's and Bayview remarked that "we haven't had our sales decimated, but we have noticed a little drop since the boycott began." He did, however, caution that the drop might be due to other factors as well, such as more people shopping at the Farmer's Market. Another local supplier, who also wishes to remain unnamed, stated that they "have noticed a drop in the amount sold – not huge, but definite." Two other local suppliers, however, said they had not noticed any substantial change in volume. No suppliers reported credit problems with Stormans, Inc., although some suppliers were unwilling to discuss this issue.

> "Buy local except when local dehumanizes," Ryan said.

Another indication that Stormans is feeling financial pressure because of the boycott is a drop in the amount it has paid to organizations which distribute Stormans community rebate cards to their members. Two local organizations have reported that their last quarterly rebates were "definitely down," with one being approximately half the usual amount, suggesting that many members of these organizations are boycotting. Three other organizations reported that their rebates are typically so small that it was impossible to gauge whether there had been a drop. It must be noted that most of these organizations have a liberal bent. The community rebates for other less progressive organizations may not have changed substantially.

Stormans Inc. recently opened a café in the state office building in Tumwater that houses the state Department of Corrections and the state Department of Transportation; this business expansion suggests that the corporation is not on the verge of financial collapse. It seems unlikely that the closure of Ralph's or Bayview is imminent, as some people have suggested. Again, it would have been nice to pose this question to Kevin Stormans, but he did not make himself available for comment.

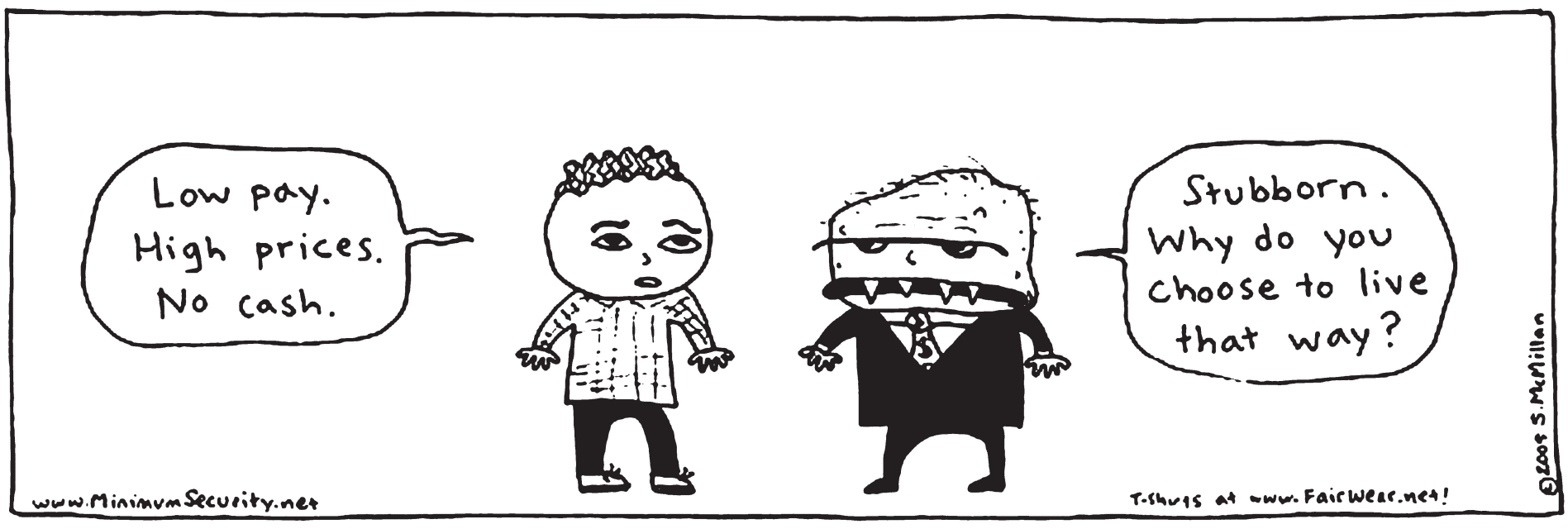
Further goals for the boycott

The aim of boycott organizers has been to pressure Stormans Inc. to change its policy about stocking emergency contraception, not to put them out of business. Many boycotters miss shopping at Ralph's and Bayview and are eager to return when Ralph's Plan B policy is changed. As Jenkins said after mystery shopping at Bayview, "It made me wistful, because I really like shopping at Bayview." When asked why she continued to boycott, Jenkins replied, "I feel really strongly that we have a right to our own bodies and to safe medications for reproductive health. I think Plan B is a great thing when it's used correctly, and it makes me so angry that Ralph's won't carry it. I feel really stubborn about the boycott, because I don't want them to win."

If shoppers resolve to continue boycotting, it is very likely that the consumers will win. In retail industries, consumers have a lot of power, and historically, boycotts have brought about important social changes. Some boycotts have an immediate impact: Greenpeace's 1995 campaign against Shell Oil for planning to dump oil from the defunct Brent Spar oil rig directly into the ocean forced Shell to adopt a more environmentally sound plan in just a few days. Other boycotts have taken much longer to succeed, but eventually accomplished worthy goals. For instance, PETA's campaign against animal testing eventually forced L'Oreal and Gillette to adopt more humane practices, but it took over five years. Without actually being targeted for boycott, a number of other cosmetic companies saw how strongly the public felt about this issue, and voluntarily adopted policies that precluded cruelty to animals.

Organizers hope the Olympia boycott against Ralph's and Bayview is resolved soon, but sometimes effecting social justice takes a long-term commitment. Perhaps the rumors about the extent of the boycott's damage have been exaggerated as a ploy to gain sympathy for the stores, to scare boycotting shoppers into returning, fearing that Bayview and Ralph's might be forced to close. It does not appear that Stormans Inc. is suffering unsustainable financial damage. Still, it is evident that the boycott has had an impact, just as it is evident that the boycott's display of consumer power is being noticed by policymakers. As Sarah Ryan put it, "Some call it damage, some call it pressure. "Let's keep the pressure on.

For more information, write planboly@hotmail.com *or check out the website at* http://www.planboly.org.



Money for healthcare, not for war

by Marco Rosaire Rossi

Polls have continually shown that the two issues that Americans have been most concerned with this past year were the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and the state of the domestic economy. Not surprisingly, the two issues are remarkably connected.

The *New York Times* has reported that, despite on-going corporate scandals, the past few years have been "the age of profitability" for American corporations—surpassing all previous record in the post World War II age. Meanwhile, the American worker is in the worst position she has been in that same stretch of time. Since Bush Jr. has been in office, more than 2 million jobs have been lost. Total economic growth for the past year was a meager 2 percent. Inflation continues to rise—especially for basic goods such as food, housing, energy, and transportation—while wages remain stagnant and Congress refuses to raise the minimum wage. Indeed, America is seeing the largest gap between rich and poor since the great depression.

At the top of these economic issues is the on-going healthcare crisis. Currently, there are around 48 million Americans without any form of health insurance—with millions more in various stages of being uninsured. The cost of healthcare has gotten so steep that large corporations are now moving factories north to Canada because it is cheaper for them to pay Canadian taxes than it is to keep paying healthcare benefits to their workers. Now, more than ever, it would appear that instituting some form of universal healthcare plan for the nation would be the top priority for any policy-maker. After all, the United States remains outside the rest of the developed world as the only industrialized nation without some form of universal healthcare. Sadly, this is not the case. Money in the federal government continues to be dedicated to funding wars abroad rather than providing social services at home.

In total, the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have cost this nation over $500 billion—with Iraq alone costing $350 billion. So far, Congress has agreed to give the Pentagon $450 billion for next year's budget with $170 billion allocated for military purposes—$50 billion up from last year. What that means is that the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan are costing this nation $465 million a day, or $322,000 a minute.

The scariest thing is what the money might be used for. Despite the fact that the wars have become increasingly unpopular, and the cry to "bring the troops home now" reflects the majority sentiment, the military is looking at putting more money toward recruitment and expanding its rank. The cost of just adding and maintaining another 40,000 troops in the army is almost $7 billion. In the coming years, the cost of fighting these foreign wars will surely get steeper—not to mention the social cost of losing American, Iraqi, and Afghani lives.

Right now there is a campaign in Olympia to get the Olympia City Council to pass a resolution condemning the war in Iraq. A few months ago, the Olympia city council had already made a statement to state representatives that the war was one of the city's major concerns because the money spent on war could be better used in our communities by providing important social services. It is time we all realized that if we are ever to have economic justice at home, then we will need to ensure peace abroad. Please contact the Olympia City Council and ask them to take the next step in passing a resolution against the wars.

David Korten's latest book reviewed

by Aleta DeBee and Dave Zink

The time to change our society is now, says David C. Korten in his newest book, *The Great Turning: From Empire to Earth Community*.

World domination and exploitation for narrow, short-sighted purposes is failing, because it has the seeds of its own destruction built into it. This "empire" system, developed by the economic elite and amoral corporations, needs to be replaced by another system, which Korten calls "Earth Community." We need to choose to do more supporting and helping other nations, as well as making the economy within our own country more equitable. Economic classes are becoming ever more sharply divided, with a few acquiring more and more wealth, and a huge, growing number of workers laboring for less and less, with poverty looming ever larger.

David Korten senses a general unsettled feeling among Americans who are upset with the unfair division between the upper 1% and all others, and with the disparity in income and opportunity between the classes. He feels that more and more people are feeling a need to develop a society where people actually work together, help each other, and share resources more equitably.

The Earth Community is an ideal where work is rewarded, where we spread resources more fairly, while using them more sustainably, so that there is enough to go around and enough to save for future generations. In the "Empire" society, which is the one we're now in, the idea has been to acquire land with oil or minerals, mine or pump out the resources for immediate profit, and then once the land is depleted, move on to other places to begin the depletion again. And, all at the lowest cost (property, labor, pollution prevention, etc).

Korten believes that Americans and others throughout the world are starting to feel that this "Empire" as controlled by corporations is not only immoral but also dangerous. Wars, pollution, poverty and over-use of resources are symptoms of this danger, and many of us are feeling the pressure that if we don't stop corporate greed now, we and our future will be lost.

He believes that we need to change the "stories" we tell our children, to reflect the direction that will bring our nation back to a fair, equal opportunity, positive America, where profit is not the only motive. Many of the "stories" that guide our children seem to emphasize domination, competition, and greed rather than sharing, respect, and "win-win" scenarios.

This book tells us a lot of what we already know...we feel it inside. But, Korten offers solutions, some ways we can start to shift from "empire" into an "Earth Community" by working *with* people and nature rather than by destroying and dominating them.

There is a lot to like in *The Great Turning*. Korten threads together politics from a feminist perspective with a long view of history in a convincing fashion, and connects a lot of dots. We found his discussion of Riane Eisler's discoveries regarding ancient matrilineal culture fascinating.

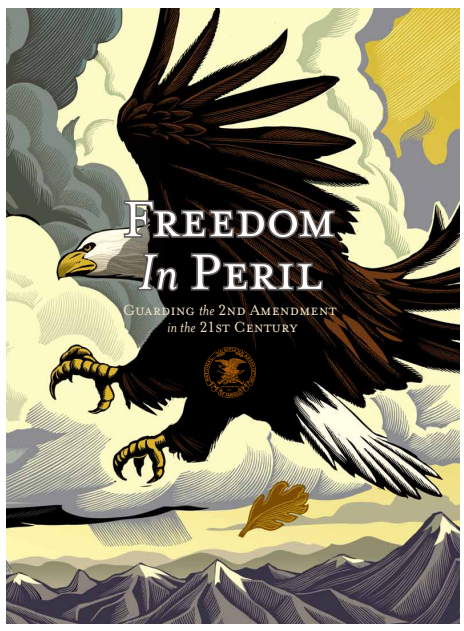
Korten's thinking is rich. The huge scope of the book alone inspires awe. He weaves history and thought together and makes a multitude of quality points without the lefty jargon so common today.

David Korten has laid out some crucial challenges, and our very survival might depend on how we meet them. The Great Turning is filled with so many nuggets of hope, wisdom and thought-provoking ideas that it becomes a call to action for all who want to help bring about a better world. Reading it is the first step toward the Earth Community.

David Korten will be starting a national book tour. You will have the opportunity to hear him at several events scheduled for our region. His ever-expanding Events Calendar, beginning in the Pacific Northwest, is located at www.davidkorten.org/cal.htm .

OH, SO THAT'S WHY I NEED A GUN!

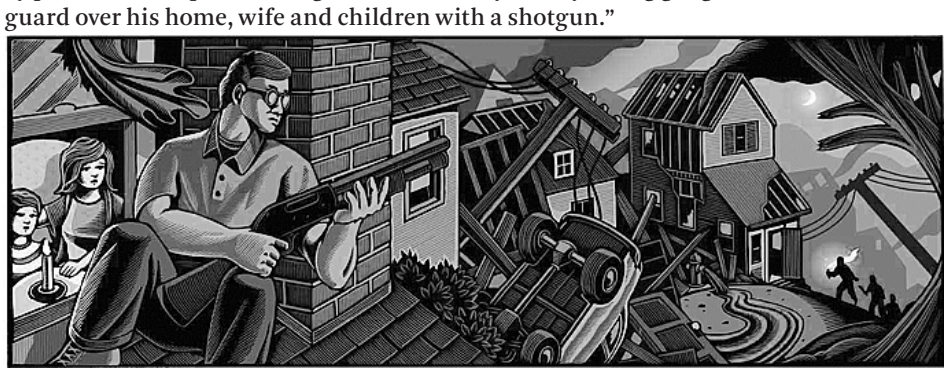
The NRA plays Nostradamus and gives us a glimpse of the end times



On December 22, the website *Wonkette* exposed a booklet prepared by the National Rifle Association (NRA), entitled *Freedom in Peril: Guarding the 2nd Amendment in the 21st Century*. The booklet, with several large—almost comical—illustrations, warns, "Second Amendment freedom today stands naked in the path of a marching axis of adversaries far darker and more dangerous than gun owners have ever known. Acting alone and in shadowy coalitions, these enemies of freedom are preparing for a profound and foreboding confrontation...We'd better be ready."

Embedded in the PDF file of the booklet are "concept notes,"—possibly instructions or suggestions for the illustrator to follow.

Below: The concept notes for this graphic reads, "Night scene of a horrifically ravaged middle-class neighborhood – by hurricane or tornado or riots or terrorist act – abandoned by police and left powerless against violent mayhem by roving gangs. A lone father stands guard over his home, wife and children with a shotgun."



Above: A single person stands in for the typical apocalyptic role of the Antichrist and/or Jewish financier: George Soros, whom the NRA booklet describes as "the Hungarian-born billionaire bankroller of a globalist jihad against firearm freedom." Concept notes embedded in the booklet's PDF file indicate that Soros should be depicted as "God like...sitting on stacks of money, guns burning all around him."

Below: What threat do animal rights activists pose to gun owners? Wonkette posits, "Here, for example, is one of the biggest threats to the white suburban hunter: dirty hippies and their evil sidekicks: the dynamite-carrying owl, sinister pig, angry Wall Street bull, dire wolf, terror chicken and Land Lobster."

Freedom in Peril
The Animal Rights Terrorists
In 2004 alone, groups dedicated to the elimination of hunting had more than $100 million to spend on their effort.
That's enough to run commercials, print propaganda, stage rallies, infiltrate schools with animal rights material, blow up medical labs, burn down buildings, destroy hunters' property and poison hunters' dogs – with enough left over to hire top-dollar lawyers if they get caught.
Their increasingly well-financed and sophisticated lobbying and communications efforts have helped these organizations migrate from the lunatic fringe to the American mainstream.
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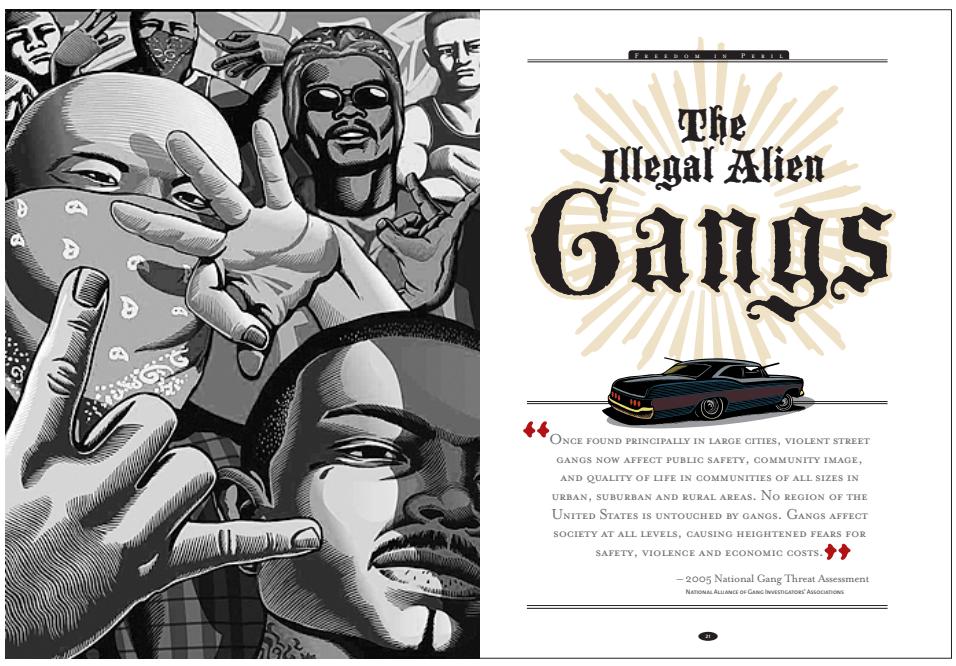
Below: Beware of the "Illegal Alien Gangs"—a multiracial axis of evil crossing the border. The concept notes call for an illustration of "clearly Asian, black, white and Latino gang members."


Freedom in Peril
The Illegal Alien Gangs
"Once found principally in large cities, violent street gangs now affect public safety, community image, and quality of life in communities of all sizes in urban, suburban and rural areas. No region of the United States is untouched by gangs. Gangs affect society at all levels, causing heightened fears for safety, violence and economic costs."
– 2005 National Gang Threat Assessment
National Alliance of Gang Investigators' Associations
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Yes, oil from Venezuela

by Joseph P. Kennedy II

There's been a lot of controversy lately over whether Citizens Energy Corp. should distribute—and the poor should accept—discount heating oil from Venezuela while that country is under the leadership of President Hugo Chávez.

But those who have no problem staying warm at night should not condemn others for accepting Venezuela's oil. Rhetoric means little to an elderly woman who has to drag an old cot from her basement to sleep by the warmth of the open kitchen stove or give up food or medicine to pay her heating bill.

For nearly 30 years, Citizens Energy has provided senior citizens and low-income families with affordable fuel oil, gas, electricity, pharmaceutical drugs, and other basic necessities. Citgo Petroleum is a US company owned by the people of Venezuela. The oil it provides to Citizens Energy, the nonprofit that I lead, acts as a safety net for hundreds of thousands.

When our partnership with Citgo was announced last year, US Energy Secretary Samuel Bodman praised the discount program as corporate philanthropy. "It's a charitable contribution," he said, "and I wish more companies did it." Charities like the Baseball Hall of Fame and the Muscular Dystrophy Association receive generous donations from Citgo, but no one is telling them to decline the gifts.

Meanwhile, oil companies other than Citgo have declined to share their record profits with those who most struggle to keep pace with rising energy costs.

In spite of the fact that heating oil prices have doubled over the past few years, the federal fuel assistance program faces a one-third cut this year, from $3.1 billion to $2.1 billion. Washington earns windfall tax revenues from the rising prices of petroleum products, but not a cent goes to offset rising energy costs for the poor. Nor do the poor benefit from increased royalties on gas and oil taken from federal lands and waters—if, in fact, the energy companies pay the government at all.

Criticism of our program isn't about cheap heating oil. It's all about Hugo. While conservative interests in this country don't like him, US businesses don't mind his money and his marketplace.

Otherwise, why would General Motors and Ford sell more than 300,000 cars a year in Venezuela? Why would Chevron Texaco, Exxon Mobil, Shell, and other major corporations—including Vice President Cheney's old firm, Halliburton—invest and earn billions every year off of petroleum exploration, production, refining, and transportation in the country? Why would US insurance companies, banks, telecom firms, entertainment conglomerates, and consumer product manufacturers flock to our Latin American neighbor?

American consumers certainly don't mind doing business with Venezuela. More than 558 million barrels of Venezuelan crude and oil products were shipped to the United States last year. Just one-half of one percent of that goes into our organization's program, but that's the only portion that draws criticism.

Even though doing business with Venezuela has been very good for capitalists, the issue at hand is Chávez and his politics of socialism. Before we accept the characterizations of him as a socialist threat to our way of life, we ought to look at our own country -- ironically, a system of socialism for the rich and free enterprise for the poor.

Banks make billions on the gap between federal lending rates and what they charge consumers to borrow for homes, cars, small businesses, and personal needs. The government guarantees their deposits, so that if the banks fail, the taxpayer is left holding the bag.

> Before we accept the characterizations of [Hugo Chavez] as a socialist threat to our way of life, we ought to look at our own country—ironically, a system of socialism for the rich and free enterprise for the poor.

Insurance companies charge consumers with premiums that go up and up, yet expect the government to cover their losses when they get hit—as we saw in the wake of the Hurricane Katrina disaster.

Student loan corporations, working closely with colleges and universities, contribute to spiraling higher-education costs with loans guaranteed by the government.

The fact is that many of the bluest of our blue chip corporations may actually be wearing a shade of Hugo Chávez red beneath their suspenders—with one major difference: They're fine with socializing the risks of capitalism, so long as they can privatize the profits. As for the poor? They're decidedly on their own.

Meanwhile, in Venezuela, the president is socializing his nation's oil profits. Poverty has dropped by 25 percent. State-sponsored provision of basic needs like food and health care has expanded.

So, sure, we'll distribute Hugo's oil. Doing so is called compassionate capitalism. Right now, our country's vulnerable families fend for themselves, while the well-to-do can afford to throw snowballs at our program from the security of their warm homes and offices.

Joseph P. Kennedy II, a former member of Congress from Massachusetts, is the founder, president, and chairman of Citizens Energy Corporation.

Citizens Energy Chairman Joe Kennedy joins with supporters of the company's oil heat program to make a delivery of discount fuel. Photo by Don West.

FREE SCHOOL WINTER CLASSES 2007

Olympia Community Free School is proud to announce our Winter 2007 class catalog! Our classes are offered free of charge. However, we strongly encourage you to register prior to attending a class. You can register online at **www.olympiafreeschool.org** or stop by the Free School (610 Columbia, across from the Olympia Supply Company) during our business hours to fill out a short form. All classes will be held at the Free School, unless otherwise noted. Please also stay tuned to our website for any class updates. Our classes begin Jan 8th, 2007 and will continue through the month of March.

MONDAYS

Poetics for the Wild at Heart. *Yulya Deych.* Mondays 5–7 pm

FreeSchooling Our Lives. *Free School Staff.* 2nd and 4th Monday of the month, 7–9 pm

It's Cool How You Can Do That (Teen Resource Collective). *Woods and Amina Baird.* 1st and 3rd Monday of month, 7-9pm

TUESDAYS

TLC: Meeting group for young people and their parents to interact and do activities. *TLC Homeschooling Group.* Tuesdays 11 am–2 pm (Contact Allison with interest: allison@harmonythreads.com)

Intermediate banjo playing and old-time claw hammer style jam. *T-Claw.* All skill levels welcome. Tuesdays 6–8:30 pm (except 1st Tuesday of month every month is 5–7 pm)

Linux. *Chuck West.* 1st Tuesday of month, 7–8 pm

WEDNESDAYS

Create Foods to Live For (Raw Foods class). *Britnee Sperry.* Wednesdays 5–7pm. Fertile Ground Guest House (311 9th Ave. SE, Downtown)

Writing Novels and Short Stories. *Geary Buxton.* Wednesdays 7–8 pm @ 2nd Floor Gallery (209 5th Ave SE, Downtown). Space is limited, please register in advance.

THURSDAYS

Intro to Constitutional Herbalism. *Ben Pixie.* 2nd and 4th Thursdays, 5–7 pm

Crow Drummers (West African Drumming). *Brett BenRaven.* Thursdays 7:30–10 pm

SATURDAYS

Free School Family Network Youth Workshops (activities will change weekly). Saturdays 12–2 pm. Look for posters with specific information, or contact deschoolers@yahoo.com

Music Making and Recording for Kids. 1st and 3rd Saturday of month, 2:30–5 pm.

Free School Mural Creation: Paint Yourself as an Animal. *Ben Trogdon and Jake Kirby.* 2nd and 4th Saturday of month, 2:30–5 pm.

Energetic Healing/Healing Circle. *Laura Angeley.* Saturdays, 6-7:30 pm

SUNDAYS

Wing Chun Kung Fu. *Michael Morningstar.* Sundays 11–1 pm. (ages 12 and older)

Literacy Submersion for all ages. *Peggy Sue King.* Sundays 2–4 pm.

Free Yoga for People. *Kim Chaplin.* 1st and 3rd Sunday of month, from Jan 7–April 1, 5–6:15 pm.

MEOW (Music Education On Wheels). *Devin Giles.* Every Sunday 6:30–8 pm (no class on the last Sunday of each month and March 4).

1-DAY CLASSES AND CLASSES TO BE ANNOUNCED (TBA)

From Waste to Wonderful: How to ferment food waste with Bokashi to have nutrient rich compost. *Erika Fehr.* Sunday, March 4, 6:30–8:30 pm

DIY Women's Health Group. Times: TBA (determined by group) Contact Sara at sara@olympiafreeschool.org

One day Bookbinding Workshop. *Jen Larang of Community Print.* Sunday, January 28th at 2pm at the Olympia Timberland Library.

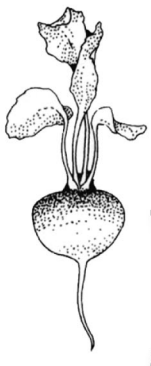
One day Letterpress Workshop. *Krysten Leach of Community Print.* Sunday, January 14th at 2pm @ Community Print (508 Legion Way #1, inside Dumpster Values). Space is limited, so register in advance.

Writing Toward An Other. *Andy Fox.* Times: TBA (Thursdays 5-7pm and/or Friday 12–2 pm (to be determined by group) Location: (possibly Café Vita, (to be determined by group) Contact: (360) 357-6673 corngodmaze@hotmail.com with interest.

Writing Toward Our Hearts. *Andy Fox.* Fridays 5 pm starting January (possibly also Thursdays 2 pm) Contact: (360) 357-6673/corngodmaze@hotmail.com

Olympia Food Co-op

Join Our Staff Collective!



The Co-op accepts employment applications at all times, and hires successful applicants as openings arise.

Visit us at: www.olympiafood.coop

FREE

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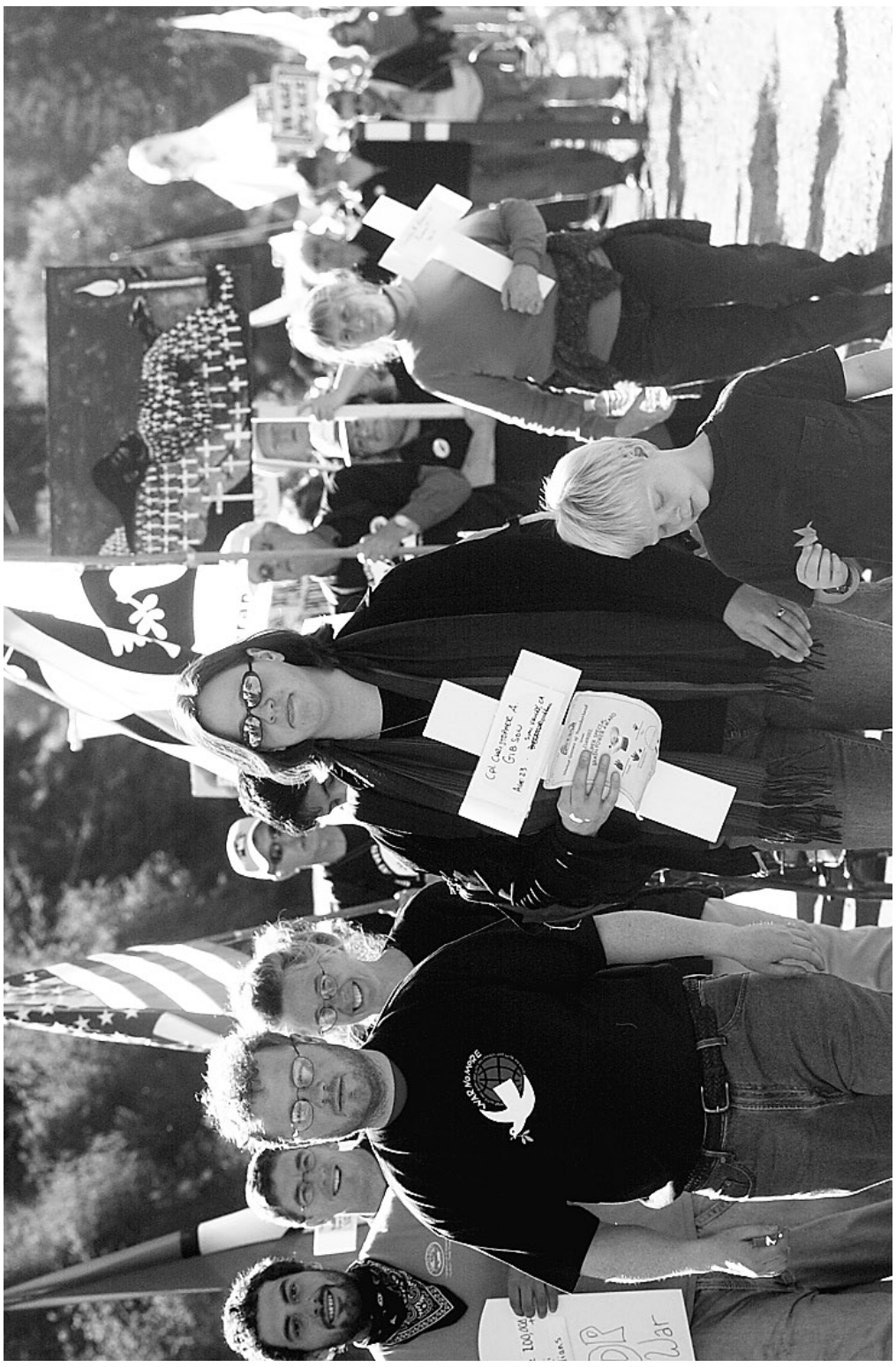
WORKS IN PROGRESS



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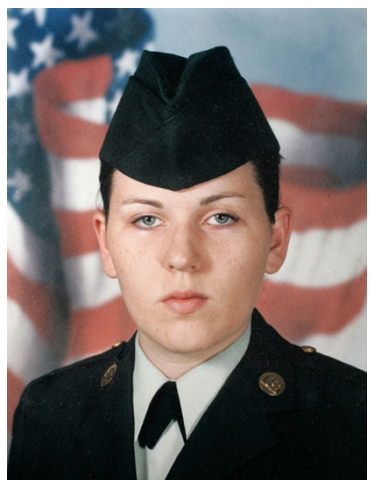

Spc. Swift takes on the enablers of sexual assault in the military. Lt. Watada takes on the illegal war. See articles inside.

Works in Progress
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